

Lieutenant Governor Garamendi's Statement on Labor Day

This Labor Day, despite the many economic challenges yet to be overcome, our nation must step back for a moment and say thank you - to honor the working men and women who are the engine of our economy and the heart and soul of our nation.

"We also look back and pay tribute to those who sacrificed, struggled, organized and walked the picket line, to create today's safer working conditions, the 40-hour work-week, and retirement benefits. Those workers did not organize out of a sense of entitlement - they fought hard to pave the way for America's future working families.

Today, this nation's gratitude for that fearlessness and drive is deeper, more appreciated and more needed than ever. With an unstable economy, tens-of-thousands of layoffs, the healthcare system in crisis, rampant home foreclosures and ever-decreasing wages and benefits, a lesser workforce would crumble.

But our brothers and sisters of organized labor taught us well. The lessons of the past have prepared us for what needs to be done in the future. The solutions to our nation's problems are before our eyes - we began last year by electing a national government that believes in putting working families first, now the next step is coming together energized this Labor Day - in unity of soul and purpose - committed to make life better for every working man and woman, their children and their parents.

We join our brothers and sisters of organized labor in the fight to save our healthcare system, fix our schools, preserve social security and to create a new economy with 21st century jobs. This is our challenge and our calling. This is what working families deserve. I am proud to stand with janitors and nurses, firefighters and teachers, security guards and hotel workers, not just to honor them on Labor Day, but to honor them on Every Day."